GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2001
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017
Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources
Chauhan Shri Nihal Chand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the impact of climate change on water resources of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to deal with the impact of climate change on water resources and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any policy decision has been taken regarding better maintenance and conservation of water resources in the country in the light of climate change and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

(Dr. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c) The Government of India has prepared National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 which has laid down the principle and has identified the approach to be adopted to meet the challenges of impact of climate change through eight National Missions. National Water Mission (NWM) is one of the eight missions established under National Action Plan for Climate Change. The main objective of the National Water Mission is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management". The five identified goals of the Mission are: (a) comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource; (b) promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (c) focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas; (d) increasing water use efficiency by 20%, and (e) promotion of basin level integrated water resources management. A Central Sector Scheme namely, Implementation of National Water Mission is being implemented in the ministry. NWM activities being undertaken are: Baseline studies for improving water use efficiency, demonstration projects/pilot projects for water use efficiency, preparation of State Specific Action Plan (SSAP) for water sector, Benchmarking of Industrial Water Use Efficiency, Human Resource Development & Capacity Building, training and mass awareness programmes.

Besides, the Ministry is working in convergence with Ministry of Rural Development for water conservation in all States/UT's.

National Water Policy, 2012 enumerates that climate change is likely to increase the variability of water resources affecting human health and livelihoods. Therefore, special impetus should be given towards mitigation at micro level by enhancing the capabilities of community to adopt climate resilient technological options. The anticipated increase in variability in availability of water because of climate change should be dealt with by increasing water storage in its various forms, namely, soil moisture, ponds, ground water, small and large reservoirs and their combination.

Water being a State subject, the Ministry is facilitating States and UT's in formulation of State/UT Specific Action Plans on Water Sector which include sustainable management of water resources and managing the impact of climate change.

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